The House Committee on Transportation offers the following substitute to HR 1685:

## A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 PART I 3 WHEREAS, Mark Burkhalter is a distinguished native son of the State of Georgia, born in 4 Atlanta and raised in Alpharetta; and 5 WHEREAS, he graduated from Milton High School and earned two B.A. degrees from the 6 University of Georgia where he served as President of the International Relations Club and 7 as Chair of the University's Model United Nations Delegation, leading that organization to 8 two national titles; and 9 WHEREAS, after college he worked for several years at the United States Capitol and then 10 returned to Atlanta, where he began a long and successful career in real estate development as the principal of Burkhalter Realty and Akin Properties; and 11 12 WHEREAS, he has been an active participant and leader in community and professional activities too numerous to list and is widely known and respected in the Johns Creek area; 13 14 and 15 WHEREAS, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1992 and has served in this body with dedication and distinction continuously since; and 16 17 WHEREAS, Representative Burkhalter served as Administration Floor Leader for Governor Sonny Perdue and was later elected as Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives 18 19 in 2005, serving in that capacity until January of 2010 when he briefly succeeded to the 20 office of Speaker of the House, making him one of the few Georgians in history to have held

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that high office; and

WHEREAS, all of the members of this House who have been privileged to serve with

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Representative Burkhalter respect him for his great abilities, his tireless devotion to the 23 betterment of the State of Georgia, and his many outstanding legislative accomplishments. 24 25 **PART II** WHEREAS, Willie Lee Duckworth lived with his wife, Edna, in a blue house along 26 27 Highway 242 as it edges east toward Riddleville and Bartow; and WHEREAS, every couple of months, a special letter would travel the time-worn path to his 28 door: a royalty check that made him feel like a king; and 29 30 WHEREAS, there were years when those checks brought more money than he made hauling pulpwood in Washington County, and the money helped put food on the table and buttons 31 32 on his shirts; and 33 WHEREAS, in 1944, Willie Lee Duckworth, an unsuspecting buck private from Georgia, 34 authored one of the most popular marching cadences in U.S. Army history; and 35 WHEREAS, at first, it simply was known as the "Duckworth Chant" but it later gained fame 36 as "Sound Off": 37 Ain't no use in goin' home. 38 Jody's got your gal and gone. 39 Ain't no use in feelin' blue. 40 Jody's got your sister, too. 41 Sound off! 42 One, two. 43 Sound off! 44 Three, four.... 45 With those words, and others, Duckworth made the journey from foot soldier to footnote in military history; and 46 47 WHEREAS, "Sound Off" became the title of a song performed by big band leader Vaughn Monroe, and this year marks the 58th anniversary of the movie by the same name, starring 48 Mickey Rooney; and 49

50 WHEREAS, although many folks in Washington County are aware of his contribution, the

- 51 march of time has delivered a generation of others who know little or nothing about his
- serendipitous fame; and
- 53 WHEREAS, he was raised by his grandparents in a sharecropper's house not far from where
- he lived, and when he was drafted during World War II it was the first time he had been more
- than 100 miles from home; and
- 56 WHEREAS, on orders from a noncommissioned officer, he improvised his own drill for the
- 57 nine African American soldiers in his unit, and soon all the ranks were buzzing and keeping
- 58 rhythm; and
- 59 WHEREAS, "Sound Off" is still making noise with the blessings of the young soldier who
- dreamed it up, and it is only fitting and proper that this marching maestro be honored by the
- 61 people of Georgia.
- 62 PART III
- 63 WHEREAS, Walter Curtis Butler, Jr., was born on December 12, 1943, in Morgan County,
- 64 Georgia, and passed away on August 1, 2008; and
- WHEREAS, he was a proud product of Morgan County public schools and graduated from
- Pearl High School, and he resided in Morgan County his entire life and was the first African
- 67 American elected official in Morgan County; and
- WHEREAS, he served as a Morgan County Commissioner for over 25 years and served as
- vice chair for many years; and
- 70 WHEREAS, Walter Curtis Butler, Jr., was a member of the NAACP for over 40 years, was
- 71 the founder of the Morgan County Branch of the NAACP, served as president of the Georgia
- 72 State Conference of the NAACP for 12 years, and was a Golden Heritage Life member of
- 73 the national association; and
- 74 WHEREAS, he was, despite his most humble and unassuming manner, a widely-known and
- 75 highly-respected Civil Rights pioneer and leader not just in Madison, Morgan County, and
- throughout the State of Georgia, but also in the states contiguous to Georgia; and

77 WHEREAS, Walter Curtis Butler, Jr., in his many years of service as a leader in the NAACP

- and as a Morgan County Commissioner, was a member of and garnered numerous accolades
- 79 from various civic and public organizations including the Georgia Association of Black
- 80 Elected Officials; Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG); State
- 81 Commission on Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday; Criminal Justice Coordinator Council
- 82 (2002-2006), where he served as Governor Roy Barnes' appointee; Morgan County Hospital
- 83 Authority; and the Morgan County Civil League, just to name a few; and
- WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper to dedicate a bridge as a lasting memorial to his
- accomplishments.
- 86 PART IV
- 87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 88 GEORGIA that the members of this body do hereby join in recognizing and expressing
- 89 appreciation to the Honorable Mark Burkhalter and that the portion of SR 141 from the
- 90 Gwinnett County line to the Forsyth County line in Fulton County be dedicated as the Mark
- 91 Burkhalter Parkway.
- 92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby joins in offering its condolences to the
- 93 family and friends of Willie Lee Duckworth upon his passing and in honoring him by
- dedicating the portion of SR 242 in Washington County from its intersection with SR 15 to
- 95 the Jefferson County Line as the Willie Lee Duckworth Highway.
- 96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby joins in offering its condolences to the
- 97 family and friends of Walter Curtis Butler, Jr., upon his passing and in honoring him by
- dedicating the bridge on US 441 South over I-20 at Exit 114 as the Walter Curtis Butler, Jr.
- 99 Memorial Bridge.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
- directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
- resolution.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
- and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
- 105 Transportation, Mark Burkhalter, the family of Willie Lee Duckworth, and the family of
- Walter Curtis Butler, Jr.